



General Assembly

**Substitute Bill No. 285**

February Session, 2006

\* \_\_\_\_\_SB00285APP\_\_042506\_\_\_\_\_\*

**AN ACT CONCERNING PERSONAL WATERCRAFT AND CHILDREN.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 15-140j of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective October 1, 2006*):

3 (a) As used in this section, "personal watercraft" is any inboard  
4 powered vessel less than sixteen feet in length which has an internal  
5 combustion engine powering a water-jet pump as its primary source of  
6 motor propulsion and which is designed to be operated by a person  
7 sitting, standing or kneeling on the vessel, rather than the conventional  
8 manner of sitting or standing inside the vessel.

9 (b) On and after June 23, 1993, no person shall operate a personal  
10 watercraft unless he has successfully completed a course in safe  
11 personal watercraft handling approved by the Commissioner of  
12 Environmental Protection and has been issued a certificate of personal  
13 watercraft operation by the Commissioner of Environmental  
14 Protection. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, the  
15 commissioner may modify or suspend requirements for a certificate of  
16 personal watercraft operation by written authorization with respect to  
17 any marine event authorized by the commissioner or upon receipt of a  
18 copy of the United States Coast Guard authorization for a marine  
19 event.

20 (c) The commissioner may adopt regulations in accordance with the  
21 provisions of chapter 54 establishing the content of courses in safe  
22 personal watercraft handling. Such regulations may include provisions  
23 for examinations, issuance of certificates of personal watercraft  
24 operation and establishment of a reasonable fee for such course and  
25 examination and for the issuance of a certificate and duplicate  
26 certificate. Any fee collected pursuant to regulations adopted under  
27 this section shall be deposited in the boating account established  
28 pursuant to section 15-155.

29 (d) Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, any person who  
30 purchases a new or used personal watercraft after May 20, 1994, may,  
31 upon vessel registration, apply to the Commissioner of Environmental  
32 Protection for a temporary certificate of personal watercraft operation  
33 which shall be valid for six months from the date of registration,  
34 provided the applicant has successfully completed a course in safe  
35 personal watercraft handling prior to application for the temporary  
36 certificate. No person shall be issued more than one temporary  
37 certificate of personal watercraft operation.

38 (e) The commissioner may enter into a reciprocal agreement with  
39 any other state which has a similar safe personal watercraft handling  
40 certificate program which the commissioner deems acceptable for  
41 purposes of this subsection. Any person who successfully completes a  
42 course in safe personal watercraft handling and holds a certificate or  
43 license from another state which has such a reciprocal agreement with  
44 the commissioner may operate a personal watercraft on the waters of  
45 this state.

46 (f) Any person required to obtain a certificate of personal watercraft  
47 operation pursuant to this section shall have such certificate on board  
48 at all times while operating a personal watercraft. On demand of an  
49 officer authorized to enforce the provisions of this chapter, such person  
50 shall exhibit the certificate to the officer.

51 (g) No passenger shall be permitted to ride in front of the operator

52 on a personal watercraft. No passenger shall be permitted to ride upon  
 53 a personal watercraft unless the passenger is able to securely hold onto  
 54 the person in front of them or to the handholds on the personal  
 55 watercraft, and is able to keep both feet on the deck of the personal  
 56 watercraft so as to maintain balance while the personal watercraft is in  
 57 operation.

58 ~~[(g)]~~ (h) Any person who violates any provision of this section shall  
 59 be fined not less than sixty dollars nor more than two hundred fifty  
 60 dollars for each such violation.

61 ~~[(h)]~~ (i) A certificate of personal watercraft operation may be  
 62 suspended or revoked in accordance with the provisions of section 15-  
 63 133, 15-140~~l~~ or 15-140n.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2006	15-140 <del>j</del>

**ENV**      *Joint Favorable Subst.*

**JUD**      *Joint Favorable*

**APP**      *Joint Favorable*